

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of analyzing cell wall components based on a hot dilute acid extraction ,
followed by alcohol precipitation, of plant cellulosic materials such as cotton fibers or
wood pulp. The extracts are analyzed by high pH anion exchange chromatography to
separate and characterize the carbohydrates. This method extracts a characteristic series of
carbohydrate multimers containing galactose, mannose and glucose. The pattern of
multimers is indicative of origin of the cellulosic material (*e.g.*, the plant species the
material comes from) as well as quality and processing state of the material. The alcohol
precipitation improves the discriminating powers of the analysis so that the species of
10 origin of plant products can be identified.